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Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01642 120958Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1642

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR
PRESIDENT'S TOWN MEETING IN BERLIN: HONECKER INTERVIEW

REFS: (A) USBER 1424; (B) USBER 1427; (C) BONN 12588;
(D) BERLIN 4506

1. IN ADDITION TO QUESTIONS COVERED IN REF D, WE FEEL, BASED ON LOCAL CONTACTS, THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS COULD CONCEIVABLY ARISE AT TOWN MEETING JULY 15 AS A RESULT OF THE HONECKER INTERVIEW.

Q: DOES UNITED STATES FAVOR A MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER?

A: UNITED STATES DOES NOT SEEK TO INFLUENCE EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRG OR THE GDR IN THEIR MUTUAL RELATIONS. OF COURSE, WE WELCOME ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD SERVE TO ENHANCE THE CHANCES FOR STABILITY AND HELP PEOPLE IN BOTH GERMAN STATES.

Q: IN HIS INTERVIEW OF JULY 5, MR. HONECKER ALLEGES REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN.
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SINCE THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED UNDER THE UM-BRELLA OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT, COULD I ASK YOU WHETHER YOU SAHRE HIS CONCERN?

A: UNITED STATES FAVORS AS FREE ACCESS AS POSSIBLE TO BERLIN AS WELL AS THE FREE EMIGRATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. I AM

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HAPPY THAT SO MANY MILLIONS OF PERSONS HAVE ALREADY BENEFITTED FROM THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT IN GOING TO AND FROM BERLIN. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT UNCONSIDERED AND UNTHOUGHT-OUT ACTIVITIES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES OCCASIONALLY LEAD TO PERSONAL TRAGEDIES.

Q: MR. HONECKER STATED THAT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT "BERLIN" DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE BERLIN AS CAPITAL OF THE GDR, WAS NOT THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE FOUR POWERS. IS HE RIGHT?

A: NO. THE WORDS USED IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ARE "THE RELEVANT AREA". ANY READING OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WOULD SHOW ANYONE THAT "THE RELEVANT AREA" REFERS TO GREATER BERLIN INASMUCH AS IT MAKES REFERENCE TO WARTIME AND FOUR POWER AGREEMENTS WHICH COVERED ALL FOUR SECTORS OF THIS CITY.

2. MISSION FEELS THAT BAHRO AND HUEBNER CASES HAVE BEEN COVERED ADEQUATELY IN REFTELS AS WELL AS TELEGRAM WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY BERLIN IS PREPARING. WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG CASES HAVE RECEIVED PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN VIRTUALLY EVERY BERLIN NEWSPAPER JULY 11. IN OUR VIEW, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BOTH IN GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE ARE LIKELY TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF WEST BERLIN CONCERNS AT THIS STAGE.
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